

of Nebraska communities, including Lincoln, rushed forward to grab the first round of grants and cash in on the chance to add people to their police forces. President Clinton, sensing that 100,00 is still a magic and marvelously symbolic number, has chosen to make it the centerpiece of his first veto threat. Tinker with that portion of the crime bill, he is warning Republicans who are all too anxious to do just that, and bipartisan-ship will go by the boards.

The Journal is certainly interested to hear the news that the President is—apparently—prepared to make one of his few firm stands. But the Journal is not interested in seeing him issue a veto for the sake of a single number—even a six-figure number.

In this case, it is the Republicans who have the better plan. They want to let states and individual communities decide how to take a bite out of crime. They want to distribute money and leave the decision at the local level as to whether it will be spent directly on more police officers or on some other crime efforts that are regarded as more effective.

It make sense for a variety of reasons, including flexibility. In a metropolitan setting, the oft-maligned idea of midnight basketball might actually offer more help in crime prevention. In cities like Lincoln, where community policing is much in vogue, it might make more sense to spend it on a satellite police station or some need that is closely aligned with community policing.

It is also important to note that the Federal commitment to putting more police on the street does not extend to training or equipment and that it is only good for three years. After that, as it appears now, grant recipients would be left to stand the entire cost of however many personnel they hire.

The second editorial is from the February 17, 1995, Omaha World Herald.

NO FALSE PROMISES IN HOUSE CRIME PLAN

President Clinton has been in a huff over congressional efforts to redesign the crime bill he signed into law in 1994. The president says he will veto any attempt to dismantle a program that promised to put 100,000 police officers on the streets.

However, Clinton's claim that the \$8.8 billion allocated by Congress for that purpose would actually finance that many officers has always been suspect. City officials in Omaha and a number of other places soon discovered that Congress had attached so many strings to the money that applying for it was in some cases impractical.

For one thing, cities can't add even one officer unless they put up their own money first—25 percent of the total. The federal funding runs out after five years. Moreover, law enforcement experts said the \$8.8 billion wouldn't come close to covering the cost of hiring, training and equipping 100,000 officers without forcing communities to come up with still more of their own money. By some accounts, the federal money would pay for closer to 20,000 new officers.

The House has now voted to cancel \$7.5 billion in unspent funds for the police buildup. Also canceled would be \$3.9 billion in unspent funds for social programs that the previous Congress had included under the heading of "crime prevention." Instead, the House proposes \$10 billion in block grants to the states. States and cities could design their own anti-crime programs.

Clinton has been adamant about preserving the 100,000-officer program. But the House idea is better. It makes no false promises. And it takes government another step away from the idea that Big Brother in Washington knows more about fighting crime than the mayors and police chiefs who are engaged in that fight every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, due to unavoidable travel delays I missed two votes taken Tuesday, February 20, 1995.

Had I been present I would have made the following votes:

First, yea on the previous question on Rule H.R. 831.

Second, yea on the rule on H.R. 831.

PROCLAMATION CONGRATULATING MURPHY'S FURNITURE AND CARPET

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Murphy's Furniture & Carpet celebrate its 70th anniversary, founded in 1925 by Theodore T. Murphy; and,

Whereas, the Murphy's Furniture & Carpet is one of Noble County's oldest and most progressive businesses and one of its valued institutions in the Caldwell community; and,

Whereas, this establishment has achieved a praiseworthy record of service as evidenced by its many satisfied customers; and,

Whereas, through enterprises such as Murphy's our country continues to grow and prosper; and,

Whereas, the unwavering dedication to the founder, Theodore T. Murphy and owners Clair J. Murphy and J. Murphy, the employees of Murphy's have been a vital factor in the success of the business, and they are all well deserving of the respect of the community; and,

Whereas, the city of Caldwell and all the surrounding areas of Ohio, with a real sense of pleasure commend Murphy Furniture & Carpet as an outstanding business and join in the celebration of their 70 year anniversary this twenty-third day of February in the year one thousand nine hundred ninety-five.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Engineers Week. Celebrated annually since 1951, National Engineers Week is intended to raise awareness of the many contributions engineers make to our society.

There are more than 1.8 million engineers in the United States making it the Nation's second largest profession. From building microchips to constructing skyscrapers, engineers contribute a great deal to the productivity of the United States and it is only fitting that we designate this week in their honor.

Many events are planned for this week, including the finals of the National Engineers Week Future City Competition. The competi-

tion features seventh and eighth grade students presenting their computer-designed scale models of 21st century cities.

Each year National Engineers Week coincides with the celebration of Washington's birthday. As a surveyor, Washington is considered the Nation's First Engineer.

As chairman of the House Science Committee, I maintain a great interest in engineering. In every field, in every profession, engineers are an instrumental part of American research and development.

Among my colleagues in the House several are engineers. They include: Representative ROSCOE G. BARTLETT, MD; Representative JOE BARTON, TX; Representative MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, FL; Representative BOB FILNER, CA; Representative JOHN N. HOSTETTLER, IN; Representative JAY KIM, CA; Representative LEWIS F. PAYNE, VA; Representative JOE SKEEN, NM; and the ranking minority member of the Science Committee, Representative GEORGE E. BROWN, JR., CA.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and the American people in paying tribute to the many and varied contributions which engineers have made to this country.

A TRIBUTE TO COMDR. ROY J. BALACONIS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I would like the House of Representatives to take a moment to commend one of the finest officers in the U.S. Navy. He is Comdr. Roy J. Balacanis, of the U.S.S. *Mitscher*, one of the Navy's newest and finest ships, an Aegis Destroyer.

To become the Commander of an Aegis Destroyer, which is the Rolls Royce of the fleet, one must be a tremendous officer. Commander Balacanis certainly fits the bill. He served under the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the gulf war, specifically because of his knowledge of the Navy's Tomahawk missile. He had the foresight to develop a thesis which utilized the Tomahawk missile in a scenario where it supported and sustained a surface and air confrontation in the Middle East during the time of crisis * * * and this was some 2 years before Operation Desert Storm/Shield. His thesis basically became the manual for Tomahawk use during the gulf war.

Mr. Speaker, now Commander Balacanis has his own ship, and he is continuing to utilize his unique leadership skills. A member of my staff recently took a tour of his ship, and Commander Balacanis repeatedly stopped to talk to every member of his crew with whom they came into contact. Additionally, there were several members of his crew's families on board, and Commander Balacanis also stopped to speak with each of them, and the concern he showed was genuine. Commander Balacanis always referred to his crew and their families as part of the Mitscher family.

Mr. Speaker, the men on his ship feel his enthusiasm and share in his desire to succeed. The high morale is evident in every